

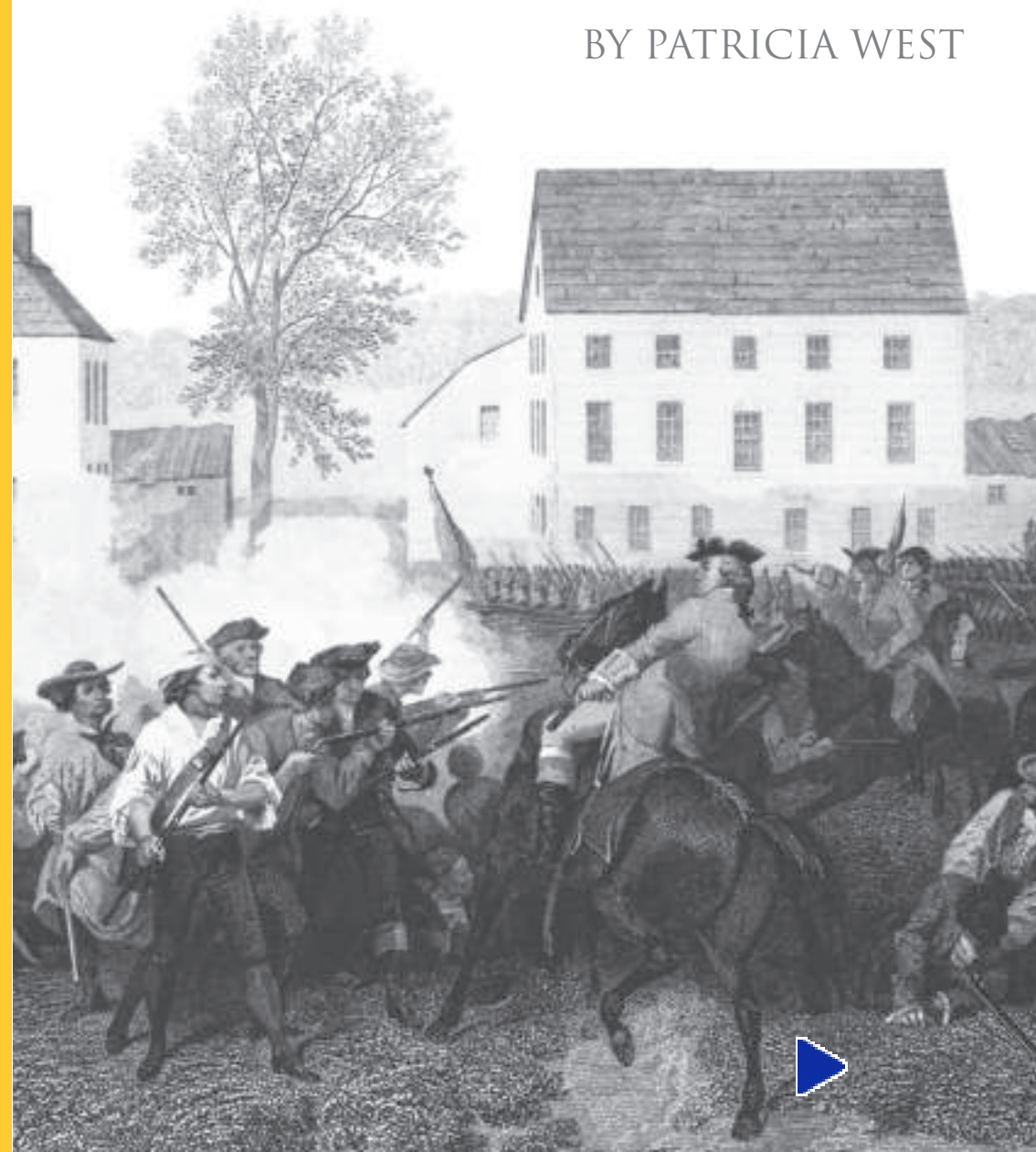
Suggested levels for Guided Reading, DRA™, Lexile®, and Reading Recovery™ are provided in the Pearson Scott Foresman Leveling Guide.

Social Studies

Social Studies

PAUL REVERE AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

BY PATRICIA WEST



Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategies	Text Features
Narrative nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sequence• Cause and Effect• Ask Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Captions• Call Outs• Map• Glossary

Scott Foresman Reading Street 5.2.5



scottforesman.com





PAUL REVERE AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

BY PATRICIA WEST



Editorial Offices: Glenview, Illinois • Parsippany, New Jersey • New York, New York
Sales Offices: Needham, Massachusetts • Duluth, Georgia • Glenview, Illinois
Coppell, Texas • Ontario, California • Mesa, Arizona



Paul Revere had a secret. He spent some of his time working as a skillful craftsman, making and repairing all kinds of metal household items. He also worked as a sort of dentist, replacing people's missing teeth with animal teeth. But it was Revere's somewhat secret third role as a member of the Boston Sons of Liberty that won him a place in United States history.

Paul Revere lived in this house from 1770 to 1800. It is Boston's oldest wooden building.



Every effort has been made to secure permission and provide appropriate credit for photographic material. The publisher deeply regrets any omission and pledges to correct errors called to its attention in subsequent editions.

Unless otherwise acknowledged, all photographs are the property of Scott Foresman, a division of Pearson Education.

Photo locators denoted as follows: Top (T), Center (C), Bottom (B), Left (L), Right (R), Background (Bkgd)

Opener: Library of Congress; 1 Corbis; 3 ©DK Images; 4 Library of Congress; 5 The Granger Collection, NY; 6 Bettmann/Corbis; 7 Library of Congress; 8 Library of Congress; 9 Corbis; 10 Getty Images; 11 Corbis; 12 Library of Congress; 13 Library of Congress; 14 Library of Congress; 15 ©DK Images; 16 Library of Congress; 17 Robert Holmes/Corbis; 18 Library of Congress; 20 Library of Congress; 21 Library of Congress; 22 ©DK Images; 23 ©DK Images

ISBN: 0-328-13530-5

Copyright © Pearson Education, Inc.

All Rights Reserved. Printed in the United States of America. This publication is protected by Copyright, and permission should be obtained from the publisher prior to any prohibited reproduction, storage in a retrieval system, or transmission in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or likewise. For information regarding permission(s), write to: Permissions Department, Scott Foresman, 1900 East Lake Avenue, Glenview, Illinois 60025.





Sons of Liberty

Paul Revere became famous for the part he played in the Boston Sons of Liberty. This group met often to discuss their complaints about the British, whose king, King George III, ruled thirteen colonies along the east coast of what is today the United States. The meetings sometimes took place under an elm tree the group called a "liberty tree." Nearly every town in colonial America had its own liberty tree, where colonists gathered for anti-British activities. Colonists posted their complaints about British rule on its branches. Towns that did not have a suitable tree put up a "liberty pole" instead.



Paul Revere created this engraving of a liberty tree obelisk.



Revere had once been a soldier who fought for the British. He was among the colonists who battled the French and their Native American allies during the French and Indian War (1754–1763). In that conflict the French lost the land they held west of the Mississippi River. The British knew that this territory would be too expensive to defend, so they made a law that prevented the colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains. This law made the colonists angry because many wanted to move westward from the thirteen colonies.





King George III was the ruler of Britain, the thirteen American colonies, and other British colonies around the world. He ruled from 1760 to 1820, longer than any other British king.

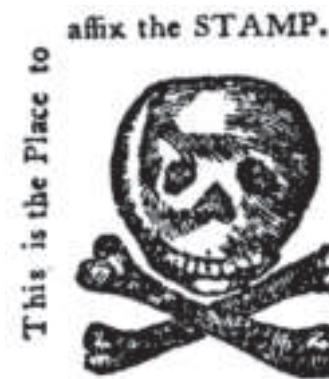


The British were angry too, but for a different reason. The war had put them deeply in debt. They thought the colonists should help pay for the cost of the war. After all, the war had been fought partly to protect the colonies. But the colonists did not share this view. The British also wanted the colonists to help pay for the costs of defense and government. This demand was no more popular than the first one.



The British went ahead and taxed the colonies anyway. One law, passed in 1764, was called the Sugar Act. It taxed sugar, molasses, and other products shipped to the colonies. Colonists who ignored the act were punished as smugglers.

A year later, the Stamp Act was passed by the British. This law required all legal and business documents in the colonies to carry a stamp showing that a tax had been paid. Even newspapers had to have this special stamp. The colonists were very angry. They wondered what tax the British would decide on next. Would the British try to tax everything the colonists owned? It didn't seem fair because the colonists had no voice in the British government. They claimed the British were taxing them without representation.



The British government sold stamps that were required for many documents, including newspapers. Colonists expressed their anger by burning stamped papers. They also placed a skull and crossbones image on documents that required a British stamp.





The Colonists Boycott

The main purpose of the Boston Sons of Liberty was to protest these British decisions. Many of the colonists joined together to boycott, or refuse to buy, any British goods. British merchants, seeing that their businesses would be hurt by the boycott, thought the act was a mistake. Even some British politicians agreed with the colonists, and the act was soon cancelled.

Then the British government came up with another way of raising money from the colonists. The Townshend Acts taxed goods that were brought into the colonies. Colonists would have to pay taxes when they bought imported items such as glass, paper, paint, lead, and tea. To make sure the taxes were paid, British soldiers had the right to search colonists' businesses and homes. In response to these actions, another boycott of British goods was called for by Samuel Adams, another member of the Boston Sons of Liberty.

Imported glass and other goods were taxed.



Although women didn't have much voice in politics in those days, some of them formed a group called Daughters of Liberty. By refusing to buy British goods, these women made the hard work in their homes even more difficult. They had to make the items needed by their families themselves.

Leaders in the colonies encouraged peaceful protests. However, people couldn't always stay calm while British troops were seizing their goods. When Britain threatened to send more soldiers, Samuel Adams declared, "We will destroy every soldier that dares put his foot on shore." Another thousand soldiers landed in Boston in 1768 anyway. Tensions increased between the soldiers and the colonists. Both sides lost their manners. The soldiers bumped Bostonians off the sidewalk and disrupted the colonists' church services with loud music. Younger colonists yelled insults at the soldiers and called them "lobsters." That rude name arose because of the bright red coats the British soldiers wore.





A British Soldier



Trouble in the Snow

Arguments between British soldiers and colonists got worse and worse. They finally turned violent on March 5, 1770. On that date, bystanders watched British troops tread the streets of Boston. Colonists threw a few snowballs and even stones. Angry words were shouted. In all the confusion a British soldier thought he heard his captain yell "Fire!" Before the captain could stop his men, they fired, and five Bostonians lay dead. Among them was an African American sailor named Crispus Attucks. He was the first person to die in what would become the American Revolution.





Colonists React

Paul Revere used his talent to let people in all the colonies know about this shocking event, which became known as the Boston Massacre. He made an engraving of the shooting, and many people saw it. Revere's engraving was not quite accurate, however. His picture made it look as though the British attacked the colonists on purpose. In reality, the soldiers may have fired because they were frightened and confused.

Paul Revere made this engraving and sent it everywhere in the colonies.



The Boston Massacre was followed by a trial of the British soldiers. The question was whether the British captain had ordered his soldiers to fire. Two witnesses claimed that the order came from "a person in dark-colored clothing" who stood behind the troops. The jury decided that most of the British soldiers had acted in self-defense.



John Adams was a patriot, but he defended the British soldiers in their trial after the Boston Massacre.

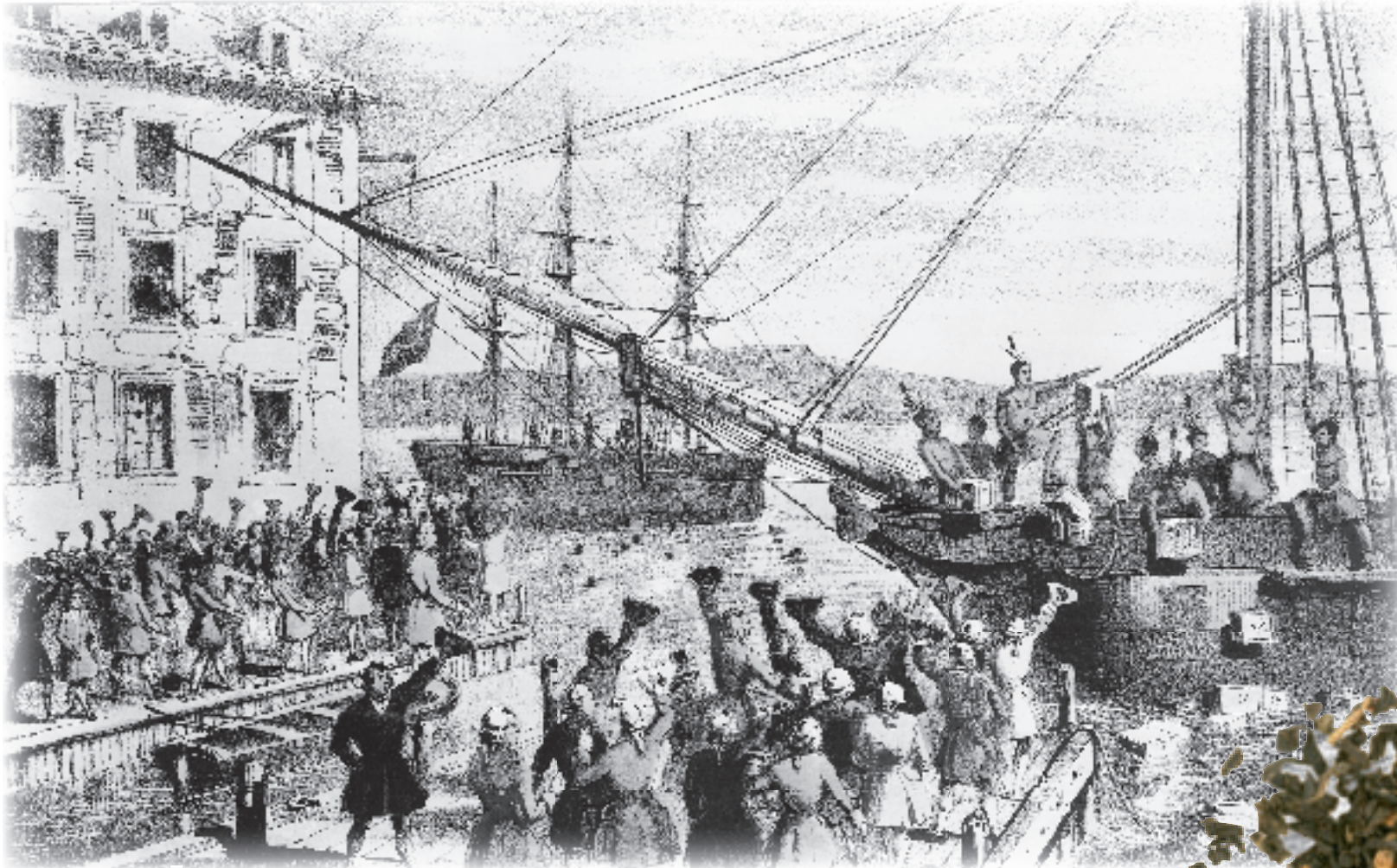


By coincidence the British government had decided to cancel most of the Townshend Acts on the day of the massacre. Of course the colonists did not know that at the time. And they became angry again when Britain enacted the Tea Act in 1773. Tea was a very popular drink in the colonies. About six million pounds of tea leaves were used every year. Under the Tea Act only British tea could be bought in the colonies. The colonists boycotted tea right away, and it was never as popular in the colonies again.





The people of Boston did more than just boycott tea. Paul Revere and other members of the Boston Sons of Liberty planned a **fearless** and bold attack. They dressed up as Mohawk Indians so they wouldn't be recognized. "Boston Harbor—a teapot tonight!" they cried. In the middle of the night, they crept onto the British ships that were carrying tea. They broke open more than three hundred tea chests and dumped the tea into the harbor. This event became known as the Boston Tea Party.



Revere decided to saddle a **steed** and carry the news of the Boston Tea Party to the Sons of Liberty in New York and Philadelphia. In both cities the colonists promised to support Boston on the question of the Tea Tax. It was not to be the last of Revere's rides as a messenger.

Britain responded to the Boston Tea Party with **magnified** anger—and with yet another set of acts. The colonists gave their own name to these acts: the Intolerable Acts. They printed them in their

newspapers surrounded with a thick black border, making them look like a death announcement. Some colonists set copies of the acts on fire. After the Boston Tea Party, the British wanted to punish Boston, so they closed its port. They threatened to keep it closed until the colonists paid for the tea they had ruined.

This engraving is titled *The Destruction of Tea at Boston Harbor*.





Volunteers leave home to serve in the militia.



Readying for War

The colonies decided that it was time to stand together against Britain and King George. In 1774 they held a meeting in Philadelphia called the First Continental Congress. They decided to stop trade with Britain until the Intolerable Acts were lifted. The colonists hoped that this action would force Britain to do so. However, each colony began training its own troops in case the British refused.

Blacksmiths were busy making weapons. Other workers produced gunpowder and other supplies. Militias were formed to protect towns. About one-fourth of the militiamen were chosen to be minutemen. These soldiers were usually less than twenty-five years old and picked for their strength. They got their name because they were supposed to be ready for battle at a minute's notice.



A Colonial Militiaman



Ordinary clothes were worn because the militia had no uniform.

The musket was often the militiaman's own hunting weapon.





To the Brink of War

In the streets of Boston, Revere and the other Sons of Liberty were watching and listening closely. There were four thousand British soldiers in the town, so there were many chances to overhear British plans. Britain had its own spies. These spies were colonists who remained loyal to Britain and were therefore called Loyalists. Colonists who wanted freedom from Britain were called patriots. Through spies, British General Gage learned that the colonists were storing war supplies in Concord, about twenty miles from Boston.

Revere was keeping a careful eye on General Gage's ships in Boston Harbor. He thought that the British might have plans for Concord. The only question was this: would the British start for Concord by land or by sea? One way to get there was to row across the Charles River to Charlestown and then march inland. The other route was a twenty-one mile hike over a narrow piece of land that connected Boston to the mainland. The land route would take more time. Revere prepared for the British to move either way.

A 19th-century lithograph of Concord, Massachusetts, depicting the site of the landmark battle of the American Revolution



Revere's Midnight Ride

Revere set up a way to signal the colonists on the shore opposite Boston. They were to watch for a **glimmer** of light in the tall steeple of Old North Church. A single lantern would mean that the British troops were coming by land; two lanterns meant they would arrive by sea.

Late on the night of April 18, 1775, Revere had two friends row him across the Charles River. On the other side, he got on a borrowed horse, probably named Brown Beauty, and rode toward Lexington, a town near Concord. His job at that town was to warn his friends Samuel Adams and John Hancock to leave. Revere knew that the British would arrest these men if they found them.





The Battle at Lexington

Finally, several hundred British troops reached Lexington and found only seventy-seven **somber** militiamen. The British commander instructed his men: "Soldiers, don't fire. Keep your ranks. Form and surround them." Just as in Boston, a shot rang out from somewhere—no one knows, for certain, where—and soon several militiamen lay dead.

The British were moving around in confusion. Their officers couldn't get them organized. Then one major took control and found a drummer. The drum's beat got their attention, and they continued on to Concord—and into trouble.

The battle at Lexington



After speaking with Adams and Hancock, Revere met up with another messenger, William Dawes. The pair took off for Concord and was joined by Doctor Samuel Prescott. Prescott was returning to Concord after visiting a friend and was not originally part of Revere's plan. But when Prescott heard about the mission to warn Concord, he offered to help.

Suddenly, British horsemen surrounded the three messengers. The soldiers threatened them and told them not to move. Prescott and Dawes managed to get away. Only Revere was captured. He told the British that he'd already warned the entire countryside and that five hundred militiamen waited at Lexington for battle. The British believed Revere and let him go. But they kept his horse and gave him one that was too tired to be of much help to him.





On to Concord

Warned earlier by Prescott, a few hundred minutemen had turned out to face the British in Concord. The minutemen took a position on a hill. From there they could see their flag flying from the town's liberty pole. They tried to summon their courage for the coming battle.

The British gathered on Concord's North Bridge. Some of the soldiers began tearing up the bridge's wooden planks. That sight made the minutemen very angry. They began to move toward the bridge. Their spirits rose when a flute began to play a march that everyone knew the British hated.

Seeing their enemy moving forward, the British were amazed. They never imagined that the colonists would actually dare to march against them. Then the shooting began. Minutemen took special aim at British officers, who stood out from their troops.

The British soldiers retreated to Boston. Four thousand militiamen lined the road from Concord to Lexington and shot at the British in a tag-team ambush.

The North Bridge in Concord, where minutemen stopped a British force of more than seven hundred soldiers



The Shot Heard 'Round the World

The Revolutionary War had now begun. No one could predict the **fate** of the colonies. Would they win their freedom? Or would they remain under British control?

There were many more battles to come on the way to American independence. As poet Ralph Waldo Emerson later wrote, the shots fired at Lexington and Concord were "heard 'round the world." One could say that the sound **lingers** wherever people seek their freedom.



Statue of a minuteman at the site of the Battle of Concord



Glossary

fate *n.* things that will happen to people that cannot be controlled.

fearless *adj.* brave; without fear.

glimmer *n.* a faint, unsteady light.

lingers *v.* stays.

magnified *adj.* increased.

somber *adj.* serious.

steed *n.* a lively horse.



Reader Response

1. Here are some made-up newspaper headlines about the events in this book. In what order might they have been printed? Place them in the correct order using a chart like the one below.

- A. Hooray for Tea Parties
- B. Ungrateful Colonists Refuse to Share Costs of French and Indian War
- C. Brave Revere Makes Daring Ride to Warn Citizens

↓
↓

2. Do you have questions that were not answered by this selection? Where could you look for the answers?
3. Think about the words in the Glossary and their meanings. Write a paragraph using the seven words. Remember that a paragraph has one main idea and details that tell about the idea. Your paragraph may be serious or silly.
4. What can you learn about a British soldier's uniform from the call outs on page 10?

